

THE PRINCIPAL
A C T S
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
C H U R C H
O F
S C O T L A N D,

Conveened at *Edinburgh* the 24th Day of *May*, 1759.

Collected and extracted from the Record by the Clerk thereof.



E D I N B U R G H:

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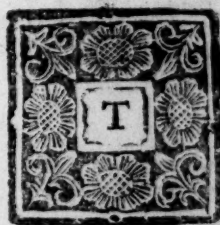
THE PRINCIPAL
A C T S
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O F
S C O T L A N D,

Begun at *Edinburgh*, upon *Thursday* the 24th Day of *May* 1759;
and concluded the 4th Day of *June* thereafter.

I.

The King's Commission to *Charles*
Lord Cathcart, produced, and or-
dered to be recorded.

Edinburgh, May 24th, 1759, Sess. 1st.



THE General Assembly of this National Church being convened and constituted, there was produced to them, by the Right Honourable *Charles* Lord *Cathcart*, the King's Commission, sealed with the Seal appointed by the Treaty of Union to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in Place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*, making and constituting him his Majesty's High Commissioner and Representative in this Assembly, of the same Tenor with the Commission granted to his Lordship in the Year 1755, and the other Years past from that Time; which Commission was publicly read with all due Honour and Respect, and ordered to be recorded in the Books of Assembly.

II. The

II.

The King's most gracious Letter to
the General Assembly, presented
to them by his Majesty's Commis-
sioner.

Edinburgh, May 24th, 1759, Sess. 1st.

Supra scribitur. GEORGE R.



RIGHT Reverend and Well-beloved, We greet you well. The Experience We have had of your Conduct in former Assemblies, and of your Zeal for true Religion and Piety, and the firm Reliance We have on your Loyalty and Attachment to Our Person and Government, have induced Us to give the most ready Concurrence to the present Meeting, and to countenance it with Our Royal Authority and Approbation. And from an intire Persuasion, that you will be directed by the same good Principles and Dispositions, as heretofore, We can with Satisfaction assure you, of Our firm Resolution to maintain the Church of *Scotland*, as by Law established, in all its just Rights and Privileges.

The repeated Proofs We have had, of the Fidelity, Abilities and Prudence of Our Trusty and Well-beloved *Charles Lord Cathcart*, as well as his known Affection for the Welfare of the Church of *Scotland*, have recommended him to Us as a fit Person again to represent Our Person in this Assembly, and We doubt not, will render him entirely acceptable to you.

We have a thorough Dependance, that you will zealously concur in your Endeavours to contribute to the great End of your Meeting, the Advancement of Religion and of Virtue: And so We bid you heartily Farewell.

Given at Our Court at *Kensington*, the first Day of *May* 1759, in the 32d Year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,

HOLDERNESSE.

III.

III.

The General Assembly's Answer to
the King's most gracious Letter.*Edinburgh, May 26th, 1759, Sess. 3d.**May it please Your Majesty,*

YOUR Majesty's most gracious Letter to this Assembly, was received with that humble Respect and Gratitude, which is due from loyal and happy Subjects to the best of Sovereigns.

It must animate us with more ardent Zeal to discharge Our Duty to God and Your Majesty, that the Conduct of former Assemblies is honoured with Your Royal Approbation; and that Your Majesty is pleased to take favourable Notice of our undoubted Loyalty and Attachment to Your Person and Government.

Your Majesty's countenancing the Meeting of this Assembly with your Royal Authority and Approbation, is a fresh Instance of your paternal Regard to this National Church, and of your pious Concern for the Interests of true Religion.

We have an entire Reliance on Your Majesty's firm Resolution to maintain the Church of *Scotland*, as by Law established, in all its just Rights and Privileges. And we humbly beg Leave to assure Your Majesty, that, through the Grace of God, we shall be directed by the same good Principles and Dispositions as heretofore; by these we are prompted to exert ourselves to the utmost in Defence of Your Majesty's sacred Person, and in Support of that happy Constitution and auspicious Government, under which we enjoy so many inestimable blessings.

The choice Your Majesty has been pleased to make, of the Lord *Cathcart*, to represent Your Royal Person in this Assembly, gives the highest Satisfaction to us, and to every Member of the Church. The repeated Proofs Your Majesty has had of his Abilities, Fidelity and Prudence, and the Knowledge we have of his Zeal for Your Majesty's Service, as well as affectionate Concern for the Welfare and Prosperity of the Church of *Scotland*, cannot but render him intirely acceptable to us, and to all the true Friends of our happy Establishment in Church and State.

Your Majesty's Renewal of Your Royal Bounty for the Reformation of the *Highlands* and Islands, and Places where Ignorance and Popery still much abound, we accept with all

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Thankfulness; and shall employ the most proper and effectual Means in our Power, for answering the important Ends of so pious and charitable a Donation.

To justify the Confidence Your Majesty is pleased to repose in us, Your Majesty may be assured that we shall most heartily concur in our Endeavours to advance the Interests of Religion and Virtue, which is the great End of our present Meeting.

That the God of all Grace, the Father of Mercies, may pour down his choicest Blessings upon Your Majesty's Person and Royal Family: That your precious Life may be long preserved for a Blessing to these Realms: That Your Councils may be directed by divine Wisdom: That your Fleets and Armies, under the Conduct of the Lord of Hosts, may be successful and victorious; and that the Calamities of War may be soon and happily terminated by a safe and honourable Peace: That God may abundantly bless their Royal Highnesses *George Prince of Wales*, the *Princess-Dowager of Wales*, the Duke, the Princesses, and all the Branches of Your Royal Family; and that, after a long and prosperous Reign upon Earth, You may at last be received into that Kingdom which cannot be moved; and that a Race of Kings of Your Royal Line, Guardians of their Liberty and Country, may always sway the Scepter over these Lands, are the sincere and hearty Prayers of,

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful, most dutiful, and most loyal Subjects,

The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland,

Signed in our Name, in our Presence, and at our Appointment, by

*Edinburgh, 26th
May 1759.*

GEO. KAY Moderator.

IV.

IV.

Act appointing the Synod of *Ross* to meet once in the Year, and that on the 2d *Tuesday* of *May*, yearly.

Edinburgh, May 28th, 1759, Sess. 4.



HERE was transmitted to the General Assembly from their Committee for Bills, a Representation and Petition by the Provincial Synod of *Ross*, setting forth, That the said Synod consists only of three Presbyteries, which are made up of 25 Parishes: That the Bounds however are very spacious, and interjected by Branches of the Sea, where the crossing of Ferries, especially about the Time of the Synod's Meetings, which happen to be about the Seasons of the Equinoctial Storms, makes the Attendance of Members both dangerous and precarious: That there have been Instances more than once, and one at the very last Meeting of Synod, when all the Members of a Presbytery have been stopt at Ferries, and their Design of attending disappointed, whereby it frequently happened that in some Cases the Sentence and Decree of the Synod was only the Deed of one Presbytery, the other being removed as Parties, and the third almost or altogether absent: That of late Years Business has not been throng, so that two Synodical Meetings yearly have been held more for Form's Sake, and in obedience to the Assembly's Act, than for real Necessity. For which Causes, and several others too tedious to be enumerated, the said Synod have for a long Time had under Deliberation, and at length at the last Meeting which held in *April*, determined and appointed that an Application should be made to this Assembly for an Act repealing the former Act, which appointed the Synod to meet twice annually, viz. once in *September*, and again in *April*; and instead thereof, that the annual Meeting of the Synod of *Ross*, should be appointed to hold yearly upon the second *Tuesday* of the Month of *May*, which the Synod are encouraged to insist for, and hope, not only for the onerous Causes above mentioned, but because also the same is the Case with the two adjacent Synods of *Caithness* and *Glenelg*, the Correspondents of which Synods, might with great Propriety and Conveniency attend the Synod of *Ross*, in their Way to the General Assembly, their annual Meeting holding only in the Month of *July*. And therefore praying the Assembly would take the Premises under their consideration, and appoint the said Synod to hold but one meeting annually,

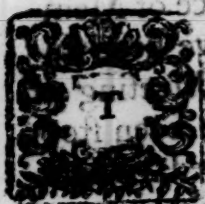
nually, and that upon the second *Tuesday* of *May*: Which Petition being read, with the Opinion of the Committee for Bills thereupon, the General Assembly did, in Terms thereof, and hereby do repeal the Act of Assembly, appointing the Synod of *Ross* to meet twice in the Year, viz. in the Months of *April* and *September*; and the General Assembly do appoint, that in Time coming, the said Synod meet once in the Year, and that on the second *Tuesday* of *May* yearly,



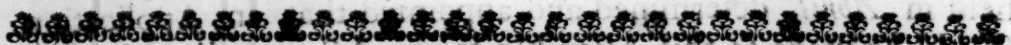
V.

Act appointing the Synod of *Lothian* and *Tweeddale* to meet on the 1st *Tuesday* of *May*, yearly.

Edinburgh, May 30th, 1759, Sess. 5.



HERE was transmitted to the General Assembly from the Committee for Bills, a Petition by the Synod of *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*, bearing, that it was found very inconvenient to have their meetings in *May*, sometimes on the second *Tuesday*, and at other Times on the third *Tuesday* of that Month, therefore, praying that their Meetings after this might be fixed on the 1st *Tuesday* of *May*. Which Petition being read, with the Opinion of the Committee for Bills thereon, the General Assembly unanimously agreed to grant the Desire thereof, and accordingly do appoint that in the Month of *May* the Synod of *Lothian* and *Tweeddale* shall meet in Time coming on the 1st *Tuesday* of that Month.



VI.

Act against Ministers making Agreements with their Heretors, with Respect to obtaining a Decree of Modification and Locality for their Stipends.

Edinburgh, May 30th, 1759, Sess. 5.

THE General Assembly having had represented to them the great Loss which many of the present Ministers of this Church sustain from Agreements, which have been made betwixt their Prede-

Predecessors in Office and the Heretors of their respective Parishes, concerning the Extent of their Stipends, whereupon Decrets of Modification and Locality have been obtained with Consent of Parties, do therefore enact and ordain, that in all Time coming no Minister shall make any Composition with his Heretors, with respect to obtaining a Decreet of Modification and Locality for his Stipend, but at the Sight, and with the Advice and Consent of the Presbytery of the Bounds.



VII.

Act anent the supplying of Vacancies.

Edinburgh, May 30th, 1759, Sess. 5.



THE General Assembly, in order to prevent the long and unnecessary protracting of the Vacancy of Parishes, Do appoint, that it shall be among the Questions asked by Synods at the several Presbyteries at the privy Censures, What Vacancies there are in their Bounds; of how long Continuance these have been; and the Reasons why they are not supplied? And if the Synod shall find any Presbytery dilatory after the Right of planting any Parish has by Law fallen into their Hands, the Synod shall enjoin them to proceed toward the Settlement of that Parish without further Delay.



VIII.

Act against Simoniactal Practices, containing an Explication of the 5th Act of Assembly, 1753.

Edinburgh, May 30th, 1759, Sess. 5.



THE General Assembly, taking into Consideration a Representation of the Synod of *Angus and Mearns*, relating to Bargains betwixt Patrons or Heretors in Parishes, and Candidates for the Ministry, or the Friends of such Candidates, and the great Danger which may thence arise to this Church, Do hereby enjoin the several Presbyteries

byteries in this Church, in order to prevent such Practices for the future, to take all proper Measures to discover if any such have happened in their Bounds; and if, upon Enquiry, it shall be found that any Minister or Probationer hath obliged himself, or that his Friends, before his Settlement, and in order to promote the same, have obliged themselves, upon the Account of the Candidate, that he shall not during his Incumbency commence any Process against the Heretors for Augmentation of Stipend, Reparation of Manse, Office-houses, or enlarging his Glebe, or shall have become bound in any Sum or Sums of Money, or any Prestation to the Patron, or Person connected with the Patron, in order to procure the Presentation, or to the Heretors or others concerned, in order to obtain a Concurrence with the said Presentation, or otherways to procure a Call to a vacant Parish, or has entered into any Simoniackal Paction or Practice for that Effect, that such Presbytery lay a Representation of the said Matter before the General Assembly, that the Procurator for the Church may have Orders to raise and carry on a Process of Reduction of such Bargains or Obligations before the Court of Session; and also the Assembly do hereby declare it a just Cause of Deposition in Ministers, or of taking away the Licence of a Probationer; and ordain Presbyteries to proceed to such Sentences against all such Ministers and Probationers, as shall be hereafter found to have either entered into such Bargains themselves previous to their Settlements, or who shall after their Settlements homologate the Deed of their Friends. And it is hereby enacted, That if any such Simoniackal Practices as are mentioned and described in this Act shall be carried on by any Person or Persons whatsoever, in order to the promoting or procuring any Benefice or Office in this Church to any Minister or Probationer, though without his Consent or Approbation; and if such Minister or Probationer shall at any Time be told or informed that such Practices have been, or are carried on, or proposed to be carried on for the Purpose aforesaid, and shall not make Discovery or Intimation thereof to the Presbytery of the Bounds at their first Meeting after he shall receive such Information, then and in that Case, he shall, if a Minister, be deposed, and if a Probationer, be deprived of his Licence. And further, the Assembly appoint this Act to be read by all Presbyteries to every Person before he be licensed to preach the Gospel, and to every Candidate for a Settlement in their Bounds before they take any Steps towards his Settlement.

IX.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discussing Affairs referred to them.

Edinburgh, June 2d, 1759. Sess. 8.

THE General Assembly considering that there are diverse Affairs which they cannot overtake, do hereby nominate, commissionate, and appoint the Reverend Dr. George Kay, one of the Ministers of *Edinburgh*, their Moderator: And from the Presbytery of *Aberdeen*, Mr. Archibald Napier at *Mary-Coulter*, Mr. John Lumsden Professor of Divinity in the King's College of *Aberdeen*, Mr. Thomas Forbes at *Aberdeen*, Mr. John Maxwell at *Newmachar*, Ministers: From the Presbytery of *Kincardine O'Neil*, Mr. Robert Michie at *Clunie*, Mr. Murdoch M'Lennan at *Crathie*, Mr. Thomas Mitchel at *Tarland*, Ministers; Sir Arthur Forbes of *Craigievar*, Baronet, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Alford*, Mr. James Lumsden at *Towie*, Mr. Alexander Johnston at *Alford*, Mr. Patrick Thomson at *Tough*, Ministers; the Most Honourable the Marquis of *Lothian* Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Ellon*, Mr. James Rose at *Logiebuchan*, Mr. Andrew Moir at *Ellon*, Ministers: From the Presbytery of *Garioch*, Mr. Thomas Shepherd at *Bourty*, Mr. George Ogilvie at *Premnay*, Mr. Alexander Reid at *Kemnay*, Ministers; Mr. David Dalrymple Advocate, Procurator for the Church, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Deer*, Mr. William Taylor at *Newdeer*, Mr. James Walker at *Peterhead*, Mr. James Smith at *Strichen*, Ministers: From the Presbytery of *Turreff*, Mr. George Gordon at *Drumblade*, Mr. Alexander Orem at *Montwhiter*, Ministers: From the Presbytery of *Fordyce*, Mr. George Grant at *Ruthven*, Mr. Robert Traill at *Banff*, Ministers; the Right Honourable the Lord *Edgefield*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Strathbogie*, Mr. Andrew Skeen at *Keith*, Mr. Roger Moodie at *Gairtley*, Ministers: From the Presbytery of *Aberlour*, Mr. John Touch at *Aberlour*, Mr. Alexander Paterson at *Rothies*, Ministers; William Stewart in *Easter Kirkcoun* Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Elgin*, Mr. Patrick Duncan at *Longbride*, Mr. Alexander Watt at *Alves*, Ministers; Baillie Robert Grant Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Forres*, Mr. Robert Dalrymple at *Dallas*, Mr. Alexander Coull at *Edin-*
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killie, Ministers: From the Presbytery of *Inverness*, Mr. Murdoch M'Kenzie at *Inverness*, Mr. Daniel Brodie at *Calder*, Ministers: From the Presbytery of *Chanonry*, Mr. Robert Munro at *Kilmuir Wester*, Mr. James Munro at *Cromarty*, Ministers; Mr. James Robertson, Professor of Oriental Languages in the College of *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Tain*, Mr. Donald Ross at *Fearn*, Mr. George Balfour at *Tarbet*, Ministers; Mr. David Ross younger of *Inverchassley* Advocate Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dingwall*, Mr. Donald Fraser at *Urquhart*, Mr. John M'Lennan at *Contane*, Ministers; Albert Munro of *Coull* Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Abertarph*, Mr. William Grant at *Kilmanivaig*, Mr. Andrew Gallie at *Laggan*, Ministers; Mr. Francis Grant Merchant in *Edinburgh* Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Skye*, Mr. John M'Pherson at *Slait*, Mr. William M'Queen at *Snixort*, Ministers: From the Presbytery of *Lewis*, Mr. Normand Morrison at *Uig*, Mr. John Clark at *Stornaway*, Ministers: From the Presbytery of *Uist*, Mr. Lauchlan M'Lean at *Bara*, Mr. Kenneth M'Aulay at *Harris*, Ministers; William Ross Writer in *Edinburgh* Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Gairloch*, Mr. Æneas M'Aulay at *Gairloch*, Mr. Donald M'Leod at *Glenelg*, Ministers; Mr. Robert M'Intosh Advocate Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dornock*, Mr. Martin M'Pherson at *Golspie*, Mr. John Sutherland at *Dornock*, Ministers: From the Presbytery of *Tong*, Mr. Walter Ross at *Tong*, Mr. John M'Kay at *Edrachillis*, Ministers; Captain George M'Kay of *Overskibo* Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Caithness*, Mr. Alexander Oliphant at *Bower*, Mr. James Taylor at *Watten*, Ministers; George Sinclair of *Ulbster*, Esq; Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Kirkwall*, Mr. John Ballantyne at *Burray*, Mr. John Yule at *Kirkwall*, Ministers; Charles Wright Bookseller in *Edinburgh* Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Kirkwall*, Dr. Hugh Sutherland Physician there: From the Presbytery of *Cairston*, Mr. Thomas Hepburn at *Birsay*, Mr. William Nisbet at *Firth*, Ministers; the Right Honourable the Earl of *Morton* Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *North Isles*, Mr. Thomas Lyell at *Lady Parish*, Mr. James Weir at *Rousay*, Ministers; Mr. Andrew Ross, Factor for the Earl of *Morton*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Zetland*, Mr. William Mitchel at *Tingwal*, Mr. James Gordon at *Fetlar* Ministers; Sir Andrew Mitchel of *West Shore*, Baronet, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, Mr. George Fordyce at *Corstorphine*, Dr. Robert Hamilton Professor of Divinity in the College of *Edinburgh*, Mr. Gilbert Hamilton at *Cramond*, Mr. William Bennet at *Duddingston*, Mr. James Stevenson at *Edinburgh*, Dr. Hugh Blair there, Ministers; Mr. Charles Hope-Vere of *Craigiehall*, Robert Montgomery, Esq; one of the Commissioners

Commissioners of his Majesty's Customs, and John Carmichael Merchant and present Dean of Guild of *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elders: City of *Edinburgh*, George Drummond, Esq; present Lord Provost thereof, Thomas Simson present Conveener of the Trades thereof: University of *Edinburgh*, Dr. Patrick Cuming Professor of Church History therein, and one of the Ministers of *Edinburgh*: Church of *Campvere*, Mr. James Yair Minister, and Archibald M'Aulay, Esq; late Lord Provost of *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Linlithgow*, Mr. Patrick Bennet at *Polmont*, Mr. John Aitchison at *Falkirk*, Mr. Adam Wedderston at *Bathgate*, Mr. James Watson at *Torphichen*, Ministers; Mr. Robert Ramsay of *Blackcraig*, and Charles Addison Merchant in *Borrowstounness*, Ruling Elders: From the Presbytery of *Biggar*, Mr. David Blenshal at *Lamingtoun*, Mr. Bernard Haldane at *Glenholm*, Ministers; William Alexander Tenant in *Rachan* Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Peebles*, Mr. Alexander Johnston at *Lyne*, Mr. Alexander Davidson at *Traquair*, Ministers; Mr. James Montgomery Advocate Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Peebles*, Mr. Alexander Murray Advocate: From the Presbytery of *Dalkeith*, Mr. Thomas Turnbull at *Borthwick*, Mr. Patrick Simson at *Fala*, Mr. John Murray at *Heriot*, Ministers; Robert Dundas of *Arniston*, Esq; his Majesty's Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Haddington*, Mr. George Anderson at *Pe. caitland*, Mr. David Wark at *Haddington*, Mr. John Main at *Athelstaneford*, Ministers; the Right Honourable the Lord *Coalfstoun* Ruling Elder: Burgh of *North-Berwick*, Mr. William Law of *Elvingstoun* Advocate: From the Presbytery of *Dunbar*, Mr. John Clunie at *Whitekirk*, Mr. Gavin Henderson at *Stentoun*, Ministers; James Hamilton Surgeon in *Dunbar* Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Dunbar*, George Wilson Merchant there: From the Presbytery of *Dunse*, Mr. Matthew Sandilands-Dysart at *Eccles*, Mr. David Johnston at *Langtoun*, Ministers; the Right Honourable the Earl of *Marchmont* Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Chirnside*, Mr. James Allan at *Eymouth*, Mr. John Buchannan at *Foulden*, Mr. Walter Anderson at *Chirnside*, Ministers; Sir John Stewart of *Allanbank*, Baronet, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Kelso*, Mr. Robert Turnbull at *Sproustoun*, Mr. George Reidpath at *Stitchel*, Ministers; Mr. George Wallace Advocate Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Jedburgh*, Mr. James Simson at *Wiltoun*, Mr. Thomas Scott at *Cavers*, Mr. Thomas Elliot at *Kirkstoun*, Ministers; Robert Howison of *Orchard* Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Erskiltoun*, Mr. John Goldie at *Erskiltoun*, Mr. David Scott at *Channelkirk*, Ministers; Robert Kennedy of *Auchtisfardle* Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Selkirk*, Mr. James Mason at *Yarrow*, Mr. William Brown at *Maxton*,
D Ministers;

Ministers; Mr. Andrew Pringle Advocate Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Selkirk*, Gideon Shaw of *Lauriston*: From the Presbytery of *Annan*, Mr. Alexander Orr at *Hoddam*, Mr. John Laurie at *Middlebie*, Ministers; Alexander Orr Writer to the Signet Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Langholm*, Mr. David Balmain at *Westerkirk*, Mr. John Dickie at *Langholm*, Ministers; Mr. William Johnston Advocate Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Lochmaben*, Mr. William Young at *Hutton*, Mr. David Imrie at *St. Mungo*, Mr. Edward M'Whinnie at *Applegirth*, Ministers; Mr. Robert Dalrymple Writer to the Signet Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Penpont*, Mr. William Cunningham at *Sanquhar*, Mr. John Johnston at *Durisdale*, Ministers; James Ferguson of *Craigdarroch* Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Sanquhar*, the Right Honourable the Lord *Shewalton*: From the Presbytery of *Dumfries*, Mr. John Scott at *Dumfries*, Mr. Thomas Hamilton at *Holywood*, Mr. John Ewart at *Troquire*, Ministers; Mr. Andrew Crosbie Advocate Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Kirkcudbright*, Mr. Andrew Boyd at *Twynholm*, Mr. Alexander Dick at *Dalry*, Mr. John Crockett at *Parton*, Ministers; Mr. William Boyd Preacher of the Gospel Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Kirkcudbright*, Mr. Robert Alexander Merchant in *Edinburgh*: From the Presbytery of *Wigtoun*, Mr. John Hart at *Kerkiner*, Mr. Patrick Anderson at *Penningham*, Ministers; John Hathorn of *Over Airies* Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Wigtoun*, Mr. William Cochran Advocate: From the Presbytery of *Stranraer*, Mr. John Hunter at *Stonykirk*, Mr. James Tweeddale at *Old Glenluce*, Ministers; John Hamilton of *Bargenie* Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Ayr*, Mr. David Shaw at *Coyltoun*, Mr. Patrick Wodrow at *Torbolton*, Mr. John Stiel at *Stair*, Mr. William Walker at *Munktoan*, Mr. James Young at *New Cumnock*, Ministers; the Right Honourable the Lord *Auchinleck*, Mr. Thomas Miller Advocate, his Majesty's Solicitor, Ruling Elders: Burgh of *Ayr*, John Muir Writer to the Signet: From the Presbytery of *Irvine*, Mr. Robert Hall at *Kilmarnock*, Mr. William Coats at *Kilmars*, Mr. James Wodrow at *Dunlop*, Ministers; Archibald Stevenson of *Montgreenan* Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Paisley*, Mr. James Baine at *Paisley*, Mr. John Shaw at *Greenock*, Mr. Alexander Scott at *Innerkip*, Mr. James Simson at *Pollock*, Ministers; the Right Honourable the Lord *Prestongrange*, and William Somerville senior Merchant in *Renfrew*, Ruling Elders: From the Presbytery of *Hamilton*, Mr. William M'Culloch at *Cambuslang*, Mr. David Connel at *Kilbride*, Mr. James Hamilton at *Bothwell*, Ministers; Mr. John Risk Probationer Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Lanerk*, Mr. William Hamilton at *Douglas*, Mr. William Forrester at *Carstairs*, Mr. William Miller

Miller at *Carmichael*, Ministers; Mr. George Lockhart of *Carstairs* Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Lanerk*, Mr. James Dewar younger of *Vogrie* Advocate: From the Presbytery of *Glasgow*, Mr. William Craig at *Glasgow*, Mr. Colin Campbell at *Eggleston*, Mr. John Ker at *Carmunock*, Ministers; Archibald Ingram Merchant, and one of the present Bailies of *Glasgow*; City of *Glasgow*, John Murdoch, Esq; present Provost thereof: From the Presbytery of *Dumbarton*, Mr. Alexander M'Farlane at *Arroquhar*, Mr. Duncan M'Farlane at *Drumen*, Mr. John Davidson at *Old Kilpatrick*, Ministers; Sir James Colquhoun of *Luss*, Baronet, Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Dumbarton*, Mr. James Smollet of *Bonhill* Advocate: From the Presbytery of *Dunoon*, Mr. Alexander Lamont at *Kilfinnan*, Mr. Hugh Campbell at *Rothsay*, Ministers; Sir Duncan Campbell of *South-hall* Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Rothsay*, Dr. Matthew Stewart Professor of Mathematics in the College of *Edinburgh*: From the Presbytery of *Kintyre*, Mr. David Campbell at *South-end*, Mr. John Wodrow at *Kildalton* in *Ilay*, Ministers; Mr. Alexander M'Millan of *Dunmore*, Writer to the Signet, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Inverary*, Mr. Patrick Campbell at *Inverary*, Mr. Archibald Lambie at *Kilmartin*, Ministers; Archibald Campbell of *Knockbui* Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Lorn*, Mr. John M'Aulay at *Lismore*, Mr. Ludovick Grant at *Ardchatton*, Ministers; Mr. John Campbell younger of *Stonfield*, Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Mull*, Mr. Alexander M'Tavish at *Morvern*, Mr. Niel M'Leod at *Ross* in *Mull*, Ministers; Hector M'Lean of *Torloisk*, Writer in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dunkeld*, Mr. Thomas Man at *Dunkeld*, Mr. James Gow at *Cargill*, Mr. Thomas Webster at *Chunie*, Mr. George Robertson at *Auchtergaven*, Ministers; his Grace the Duke of *Athole*, the Right Honourable the Earl of *Broadalbaine*, Ruling Elders: From the Presbytery of *Perth*, Mr. Patrick Duncan at *Tippermuir*, Mr. Archibald Stevenson at *St. Madoes*, Mr. Hary Inglis at *Fordeviot*, Mr. David Dow at *Dron*, Ministers; the Right Honourable the Lord President of the Session, and Mr. John Belches of *Innermay*, Advocate, Ruling Elders: From the Presbytery of *Stirling*, Mr. John Haly at *Clackmannan*, Mr. David Thomson at *Gargunock*, Ministers; the Right Honourable the Lord Justice Clerk, Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Stirling*, Thomas Gillespie Merchant there: From the Presbytery of *Auchterarder*, Mr. Robert Drummond at *Auchterarder*, Sir William Moncrief at *Blackfoord*, Mr. Archibald Rennie at *Muckbart*, Ministers; Duncan Robertson Merchant in *Crieff*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dumblane*, Mr. John Ferguson at *Port*, Mr. Alexander Steedman at *Tillicoultry*, Ministers; the Right Honourable the

the Lord Napier Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dumfermline*, Mr. James Thomson at *Dumfermline*, Mr. Robert Stark at *Kinross*, Mr. George Adie at *Carnock*, Ministers; Bailie Robert Geddes, Merchant in *Culross*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Kirkcaldy*, Mr. Robert Spears at *Eburntisland*, Mr. David Rentoul at *Kirkcaldy*, Mr. Robert Colvil at *Dysart*, Ministers; Dr. Robert White of *Bennochie*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Coupar*, Mr. Andrew Melvill at *Cult*, Mr. George Boes at *Coupar*, Mr. Robert Preston at *Coupar*, Mr. Robert Wingate at *Abdie*, Ministers; the Right Honourable the Earl of *Leven*, and Mr. Andrew Barclay of *Pitcaap*, Ruling Elders: Burgh of *Coupar*, Mr. James Dalgleish Advocate: From the Presbytery of *St. Andrews*, Mr. John Ferrier at *Largo*, Mr. Alexander Walker at *Kemback*, Dr. John Chalmers at *Elie*, Mr. John Tod at *Deninno*, Ministers; Mr. James Anderson, and Mr. Robert Anstruther Advocates, Ruling Elders: University of *St. Andrews*, Mr. Walter Wilson, Professor of Greek in the united College of *St. Salvador* and *St. Leonard*, of the University of *St. Andrews*: From the Presbytery of *Meikle*, Mr. Laurence Brown at *Lentratkin*, Mr. James Thomson at *Kingoldrum*, Mr. Andrew Hutton at *Glenyla*, Ministers; John Murray of *Lintrose*, Esq; Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Forfar*, Mr. George Nicol at *Kinnettles*, Mr. George Ogilvie at *Cortachy*, Ministers; Mr. George Dempster of *Dunichen*, Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dundee*, Mr. David Maxwell at *Strathmartine*, Mr. George Johnston at *Monikie*, Mr. James Playfair at *Liff* and *Benvie*, Ministers; Provost Wardroper in *Dundee*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Aberbrothock*, Mr. William Bell at *Aberbrothock*, Mr. James Hunter at *Kirkden*, Ministers; John Maul of *Inverkeilor*, Esq; one of the Barons of Exchequer, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Brechin*, Mr. George Blair at *Edzel*, Mr. James Beattie at *Marytown*, Mr. James Lauder at *Dun*, Ministers; Provost James Bisset, Merchant in *Montrose*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Fordoun*, Mr. Alexander Shank at *Arbuthnot*, Mr. Alexander Forbes at *Fetteresso*, Mr. Robert Allardice at *Glenbervie*, Ministers, Robert Scot of *Duninald*, Ruling Elder, with his Grace the Duke of *Argyle*, the Most Honourable the Marquis of *Tweeddale*, Sir Gilbert Elliot of *Minto*, one of the Senators of the College of Justice, Ruling Elders: To be Commissioners of this General Assembly, to the Effects after mentioned, with Power to the said Commissioners or their *Quorum*, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the said Commissioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at *Edinburgh*, the first Day after the Dissolution of this Assembly, at Ten of the Clock in the Forenoon; and thereafter

after the second *Wednesday* of *August*, third *Wednesday* of *November*, and the first *Wednesday* of *March* next to come, and oftener, when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with Power to the said Commissioners to chuse their own Moderator: And likewise, the General Assembly fully impowers their said Commissioners, or their *Quorum* abovementioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see Cause, in every Matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by any Act or Order of this Assembly, and to do every Thing contained in, and conform to the Instructions given, or to be given by this Assembly; and to advert to the Interest of the Church on every Occasion, that the Church, and present Establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any Prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Providing always, that this general Clause be not extended to particular Affairs, or Processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal Concern to, or Influence upon the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private Processes be determined, except at the four stated Diets; and what shall be determined at one Diet of the Commission, with relation to private Causes, shall be unalterable by any other Diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in Force till disapproved by the General Assembly. And the General Assembly renews the Instructions given by the General Assembly in the Year One thousand seven hundred and seventeen, to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full Force, as Instructions to the Commissioners before named, and to be observed by them in all Points, as if the same were specially here insert; and that they enquire into the publishing and spreading of Books and Pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of Opinions of whatever Kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith*; and that the Recommenders of such Books or Pamphlets, or the Errors therein contained, whether by Word, Writ, or Print, be called before the said Commission to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby impowered to receive any References and Appeals that shall be made to them from Synods, in Matters of Doctrine, and ripen such Affairs for the General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of Vice and Immorality, and give all needful Advice and Assistance to Synods and Presbyteries, upon Application to them for that End: Likewise to take Care, that the Impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith*, and *Catechisms*, and such Books as are authorised by this Church, relating to the Doctrine, Worship, Discipline and Government thereof, be correct; and give Directions about printing the same. And the said Commission are appointed and impowered, to keep a Correspondence with the Committee for Reformation of the *Highlands and Islands*,
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for suppressing Popery and Superstition, and for promoting the Knowledge of true Religion, and carrying on a Reformation in these Parts, and give Assistance and Concurrence therein; and, if Need be, to apply to the Government for a proper Remedy and speedy Redress. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other Matters than what are committed and referred to them, as above mentioned: And, in all their Actings, they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the Prejudice of the same; declaring, that in and for all their Actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see Cause. And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed; and Members are required to attend the Diets of the said Commission, and Absents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th Act of the General Assembly held in the Year One thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a *Quorum*, and Attendance of Members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, or any other Presbytery within twelve Miles thereof, to meet on any of the Days or Weeks appointed for the Meetings of this Commission; and such of the Members of these Presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required, all of them, to give Attendance on the Diets thereof; and the Presbyteries at a greater Distance, who have four or more Members on the Commission, are to take Care that at least two of them attend each Diet of the same: And the Assembly appoint their Commission, at their first Meeting, to discuss as many of the Causes and Questions relative to the Settlement of vacant Churches, which are or shall be referred to them by the Assembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Presbytery or Synod of this Church shall decline to comply with the Sentences of the Commission, or to give the same a full Execution, in that Case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such Correspondent Meetings, as has been sometimes the Practice; but shall allow the same to ly over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such Presbyteries or Synods shall be answerable for such their Conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their Commissioners their Reasons for the same. And the Assembly doth further impower and direct the said Commission, to make due Application to the King and Parliament, for Redress of the Grievance of Patronage, in case a favourable Opportunity for so doing shall occur during the Subsistence of this Commission. And the General Assembly do enjoin their Commission, that in passing their Sentences, and in ordering the Execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th Act of the Assembly 1736.

X.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for Reformation of the *Highlands* and *Islands*, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that End.

Edinburgh, June 2d 1759, Sess. 8th.



THE General Assembly do hereby nominate, commissionate and appoint the Reverend Dr. George Kay, one of the Ministers of *Edinburgh*, their Moderator, Mr. Thomas Tullideph, Principal of the United Colleges of *St. Salvator* and *St. Leonard*, in the University of *St. Andrews*, Mr. James Muirison Principal of the New College there, Mr. Neil Campbell Principal of the College of *Glasgow*, Mr. Andrew Schaw Professor of Divinity in the New College of *St. Andrews*, Mr. Robert Hamilton Professor of Divinity in the College of *Edinburgh*, Mr. John Lumsden Professor of Divinity in the King's College of *Aberdeen*, Mr. William Leechman Professor of Divinity in the College of *Glasgow*, Mr. James Witherspoon at *Yester*, one of his Majesty's Chaplains, all the Ministers Members of the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, Messrs. George Anderson at *Pencaitland*, Archibald Lambie at *Kilmartin*, John Clunie at *Whitekirk*, John MacAulay at *Lismore*, Donald MacLeod at *Glenelg*, Matthew Sandilands Dysert at *Eccles*, David Campbell at *Southend*, Walter Anderson at *Chirnside*, Lauchlan MacLean at *Bara*, Hugh Campbell at *Rothsay*, George Ridpath at *Stitchell*, Aeneas MacAulay at *Applecroft*, David Rentoul at *Kircaldy*, John Ferrier at *Largo*, James Simpson at *Wilton*, John Wodrow at *Kildalton* in *Islay*, William Brown at *Maxton*, Thomas Hepburn at *Birsay*, William Mitchell at *Tingwall*, David Blenshal at *Lamington*, Thomas Turnbull at *Borthwick*, Patrick Simpson at *Fala*, James Allan at *Eymouth*, John Goldie at *Earlston*, David Scot at *Channelkirk*, John Dickie at *Langholm*, John Scot at *Drumfries*, David Schaw at *Coylton*, James Woodrow at *Dunlop*, James Hamilton at *Bothwell*, Colin Campbell at *Ecclesham*, Duncan MacFarlane at *Drymen*, James Gow at *Cargill*, Archibald Stevenson at *St. Madoes*, Sir William Moncrief at *Blackfoord*, Robert Stark at *Kinross*, Dr. John Chalmers at *Ely*, George Blair at *Edzel*, Ministers;

nisters; his Grace *Archibald* Duke of *Argyle*, his Grace *James* Duke of *Atbole*, the most honourable the Marquis of *Lothian*, the right honourable the Earl of *Marchmont*, the right honourable the Earl of *Dumfries*, the right honourable the Earl of *Breadalbane*, the right honourable the Lord *Somerville*, the right honourable the Earl of *Lauderdale*, the right honourable *Robert Craigie* of *Glendoick*, Esq; Lord President of the Court of Session, the right honourable *Robert Dundas* of *Arniston*, Esq; his Majesty's Advocate, the right honourable the Lord Justice Clerk, *Alexander Fraser* of *Strichen*, Esq; *Patrick Boyle* of *Shewalton*, Esq; *Alexander Boswell* of *Auchinleck*, Esq; *Robert Pringle* of *Edgefield*, Esq; *William Grant* of *Prestongrange*, Esq; *Andrew MacDoual* of *Bankton*, Esq; *George Brown* of *Coalston*, Esq; seven of the Senators of the College of Justice, Mr. *Charles Hope-Vere* of *Craigieball*, Mr. *Gilbert Elliot* of *Melgund*, Advocate, Mr. *John Campbell* younger of *Stonefield*, Advocate, *John Maul* of *Inverkeillor*, Esq; one of the Barons of Exchequer, *George Drumond*, Esq; Lord Provost of *Edinburgh*, Mr. *David Dalrymple*, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, Mr. *James Robertson*, Professor of Oriental Languages in the College of *Edinburgh*, *Albert Monro* of *Coul*, *John Hathorn* of *Overairies*, Baillie *Archibald Ingram* Merchant in *Glasgow*, Mr. *Alexander MacMillan* of *Dunmore* Writer to the Signet, Mr. *James Smollet* of *Bonhill* Advocate, *Hector MacLean* of *Torloisk*, Dr. *Matthew Stewart*, Professor of Mathematicks in the College of *Edinburgh*, Mr. *William Sands* Bookseller in *Edinburgh*, *William Ross* Writer there, *John Paton* Bookseller there, Baillie *William Todd* Merchant there, Mr. *Francis Grant* Merchant there, Mr. *George Wallace* Advocate, *Archibald MacAulay* Esq; late Lord Provost of *Edinburgh*, and *Gideon Schaw* of *Lauriston*, Ruling Elders; to be a Committee of this Assembly for Reformation of the *Highlands* and *Islands* of *Scotland*, for promoting the Knowledge of true Religion, suppressing Popery and Profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty given for these Ends, according to, and in Terms of his Majesty's Grant to this Assembly. In Prosecution of which Purposes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechists to go to such Places as they shall find, upon due Information, to be most proper, according to his Majesty's Design, expressed in his Warrant; and in so doing, that they have particular Regard to such Parishes in *South-Uist*, *Small Isles*, *Glenco*, *Harries*, the Countries of *Moidart*, *Glengarie* and *Lochaber*, and the other Parishes of the Synods of *Glenelg* and *Argyle*, which the Committee shall find, by Reason of their vast Extent, the Prevalency of Popery and Ignorance, and other unhappy Circumstances, to be in the greatest Distress: And they shall take Care, that the Persons they employ be certified, and found, upon due Trial, to be properly qualified

lified for these respective Offices, of good Abilities for the same; of a pious Life and Conversation, prudent, of undoubted Loyalty to his Majesty, and of competent Skill in the Principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popish Controversies: Such Preachers and Catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the Inspection of the Presbyteries of the Bounds to which they are sent, who are to take Care that the Orders of the Committee be duly observed by them: And the Preachers are also appointed to catechise, and both they and the Catechists to instruct the People from House to House, and to visit the Sick; and in all their Labours among the People, to be careful to teach them the Principles and Duties of the true Christian Protestant Religion, and the Obligations they are under to Duty and Loyalty to our Sovereign King *George*, and Obedience to the Laws; and the Committee are impowered to give them such Instructions, as to their Work and Behaviour, as they shall judge meet; which Instructions the Preachers and Catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said Committee to have a particular Regard, in their Proceedings, to the Regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th Day of *September* 1730, approved by subsequent Assemblies; and to take care that Presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do; particularly the Assembly ordains the several Presbyteries to insert in their Registers the Committee's Appointments of the Designations, Salaries, and Stations of the several Missionaries, and to have an exact Regard thereto in all the Letters they shall write about the said Missionaries, and in giving of Certificates to them; and to direct all their Letters concerning Missionaries in their Bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which Letters shall be signed, at the Appointment of the Presbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof; and the Assembly does discharge any Payments to be made of the Salaries of Missionaries, except upon Receipts from the Missionaries themselves, and upon Certificates from the Presbyteries, bearing that they have served for the Time mentioned in the Receipts. The General Assembly do also empower the said Committee to apply, for the Purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last Year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by Reason of any of the Missionaries not fulfilling the Appointments laid upon them; and they are to keep a Register of their Proceedings, and likewise distinct Books of Accompts how the foresaid Money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned who please to inspect the same. Of the Persons above named as Members of this Committee, five are declared to be a Quorum, whereof three are to be Ministers;

nisters; But it is hereby appointed, that at the quarterly Meeting of the Committee, in which the Scheme or Establishment of Missionaries for the ensuing Year is to be approved and determined, not less than 14 shall be the Quorum, whereof nine shall be Ministers, and the said Committee are appointed to have their Meetings at *Edinburgh*, in the Hall of the Society in *Scotland* for propagating Christian Knowledge, the last *Thursday* of every Month, at four of the Clock Afternoon, and also the first lawful Day after the Adjournment of the four stated Diets of the Commission of the General Assembly, at ten of the Clock in the Forenoon, except that Day should fall to be *Saturday*, and then the Meeting shall be upon *Monday* next thereafter, at the said Hour; with Power to the said Committee to adjourn themselves to such Times and Places as they shall find most needful and convenient; and they are to keep a Correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors; and take their Advice and Assistance; and also to correspond with Synods and Presbyteries concerned: They are likewise instructed and impowered, as they shall see Cause, to apply to the Government, or any Magistrate, for Assistance and Support in carrying on the Design of the Commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do, by these Presents, nominate and appoint Mr. *David Dalrymple* Advocate, Procurator for the Church, to be Receiver of the foresaid Royal Bounty, and to pay out the same as he shall be directed and ordered by the said Committee, and according to their Rules. And the said Committee are appointed to examine the Accompts of the Distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their Diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, that no Person once employed and insert in the Scheme shall be struck out thereof for that Year, but by the Quorum of at least fourteen, whereof nine to be Ministers; and in case any Complaint shall be made against any of them on the Scheme, it shall not be determined the first ordinary Meeting that the same is offered, but shall ly on the Table till another Meeting; and in the mean Time, the Person complained of, and the Presbytery of the Bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such Complaint, and these concerned be required to send to the said Committee a just Account of the Matter, against their next Meeting. And it is further appointed, that after the yearly Scheme of Missionaries on the Royal Bounty is settled, in Manner above directed, and Notice thereof given by Letters to the Presbyteries concerned, such Presbyteries shall send up to the

the said Committee their Answers to these Letters, at farthest with their Commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner ; and that the Committee, at their first Meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to compleat the next Year's Scheme themselves ; and if they cannot compleat it, that they shall name a Sub-committee of their Number for that Purpose, who are to lay their Draught thereof before a subsequent Meeting, which are appointed to meet as soon after the rising of the Assembly as possible.

XI.

Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

Edinburgh, June 4th, 1759, Sess. ult.

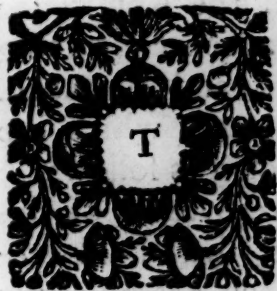
THE next General Assembly of this National Church is appointed to be held in this Place upon the third *Thursday* of May next, being the 15th Day of that Month, in the Year 1760.

Collected and extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by

GEORGE WISHART, *Cls. Eccl. Scot.*

Overture for an Addition to be made to the 6th Act of this Assembly, against Ministers making Agreements with their Heretors,

Edinburgh, June 1st, 1759, Sess. 7th.



THERE was transmitted to the General Assembly, from their Committee for Overtures, an Overture of an Addition to be made to the Act of this Assembly, the 30th Day of May ; which Addition being made to the Act, the whole is as follows, *viz.* That in all Time coming, no Minister shall make any Composition or Agreement with his Heretors, or any others, with respect to obtaining a Decree of Modification,

dification and Locality for his Stipend, or with respect to his Glebe, Grass, or any other Emoluments, to which a Minister has, or may have any Right, but at the Sight, and with the Advice and Consent of the Presbytery of the Bounds, under the Pain of such Censure as the Presbytery of the Bounds shall think proper to inflict; and that no Minister shall enter into any Agreement, or accept of any Payment of his Stipend, inconsistent with the Decreet of Modification or Locality, or Use and Wont of Payment, without an Acknowledgement in Writing, obtained from the Heretor or Heretors, produced to the Presbytery, and such Acknowledgement insert in the Presbytery Records. Which Overture being read, the General Assembly agreed to transmit this Addition to the Act foresaid, to the several Presbyteries of this Church, that they may send up their Opinion thereon to the next General Assembly.



Overture of an Act, and Rules concerning the Election and Qualifications of Members of Assembly.

Edinburgh, June 1st, 1759, Sess. 7th.



THE General Assembly did, and hereby do transmit the following Overture, respecting the Election and Qualifications of Members of Assembly, to the several Presbyteries of this Church, to be considered by them, that they may send up their Opinions concerning it to the next General Assembly, whether or not it shall be passed into an Act. Of which Overture the Tenor follows, *viz.* The General Assembly considering that the Acts respecting the Election and Qualifications of Members of Assembly are very much scattered, having been made on different Occasions, and therefore are not sufficiently attended to, and that Difficulties and Disputes have often arisen in the Application of them, do therefore, in place of all former Acts concerning the Election and Qualifications of Members, and Forms of Commissions to them, and Attestations thereof, which are hereby declared to be repealed, enact and ordain as follows.

That the Representation of the several Presbyteries of this National Church in its General Assemblies, shall hold Proportion to the Number of Parishes within each Presbytery in Manner following; that is to say, Presbyteries consisting of

12 Parishes, or under that Number, shall send two Ministers, and one ruling Elder; Presbyteries of above 12, and not exceeding 18, shall send three Ministers, and one ruling Elder; Presbyteries of above 18, and not exceeding 24, shall send four Ministers, and two ruling Elders; Presbyteries of above 24, and not exceeding 30, shall send five Ministers, and two ruling Elders; and Presbyteries of above 30, shall send six Ministers, and three ruling Elders. And it is hereby declared, that collegiated Churches, where there are in use to be two or more Ministers, are, so far as concerns the Design of this Act, understood to be so many distinct Parishes: That it shall not be lawful for any Presbytery, University, or Burgh, the Presbyteries in the Western and Northern Isles excepted, to chuse their Commissioners sooner than 70 Days preceeding the first Day of the Meeting of the Assembly: And all the Presbyteries, Universities, and Burghs, without Exception, shall make their Election at least 40 Days before the first Day of the Meeting of the Assembly; and shall appoint the Day of Election, by an Order to be entered into their Minutes, at a lawful Meeting, at least 10 free Days before such Election; and shall make their respective Elections betwixt the Hours of 12 and 4 Afternoon.

That Presbyteries shall elect no missionary Ministers, nor any Minister who is not a constituent member of the Presbytery; and no Elder shall be chosen by any Presbytery, but one who either does usually reside, or is an Heretor on the Cess Roll, or has formerly resided and officiated as an Elder within their Bounds: That Universities shall choose such only to be their Representatives, as are Members of that University by whom they are chosen: That no Minister or Elder shall be chosen by any Burgh, but one who either at present officiates, or hath formerly officiated as a Minister or Elder in that Burgh, or in the Bounds of the Presbytery where the Burgh lies, or is a Residenter or Heretor in that Burgh, or an Heretor on the Cess Roll in the Bounds of that Presbytery.

That all Commissions from Presbyteries, Universities, and Burghs, shall bear, That the Elders have signed the Formula prescribed by the 11th Act of Assembly 1694, and instead of a general Clause, that they are every Way qualified according to the Acts of Assembly, the Commission shall contain the particular Qualifications of Elders as follows, "That they are
" mindful of the Duties of their Office, are circumspect in
" their Walk, religiously observe the Lord's Day, regularly
" attend on divine Ordinances, and duly regard the publick
" and private Worship of God." Provided always, That in Case the Commission does not mention that the Elders have
G subscribed

subscribed the Formula, Act 11th, Assembly 1694, they shall be allowed to supply this Defect by subscribing it in Presence of the Assembly, or of a Committee appointed by them, or by instructing to the Assembly that they have already subscribed it.

That all Commissions from Presbyteries, after they are written out and extracted, and before they are put into the hands of the Commissioners, shall be read in Presence of the Presbytery, and revised by them, and it shall be attested by the Moderator or Clerk that this was done.

That no Commissions from Royal Burghs to their Representatives in the Assembly shall be sustained, but such as shall be attested by the Ministry and Kirk Sessions of the Burgh, and also by the Presbytery of the Bounds within which the Burgh lies: And every Commission from an University, in order to its being sustained, shall carry along with it an Attestation from the Presbytery of the Bounds within which the University lies, which Attestations of Commissions from Burghs and Universities shall be in the Form aftermentioned. But it is hereby provided, That if a Kirk Session or Presbytery shall refuse their Attestation to a Commission from a Burgh or University, they shall assign the Reasons of their Refusal, to be laid before the Assembly, and judged of by them, and if they either assign no Reasons, or these be judged insufficient by the Assembly, the Commission shall be sustained as if it had been duly attested.

Agreeably to the foregoing Rules, the General Assembly do hereby appoint and ordain the following Forms of Commissions and Attestations to be punctually observed by Presbyteries, Kirk Sessions, Universities, and Burghs respectively in all Time coming, with Certification, that every Commission not agreeable to the above Rules, and attested exactly and in express Words according to these Forms, shall be rejected, and the Persons therein named shall not be admitted Members of the Assembly.

FORMS of COMMISSIONS and ATTESTATIONS
corresponding to the Rules contained in this Act.

FORM of COMMISSIONS by PRESBYTERIES.

AT the Day of
Years. The which Day, in the Afternoon, betwixt the Hours of 12 and 4, and in Consequence of an Appointment of the Presbytery, at a lawful Meeting, on the Day of last, fixing this Day for the Election of their Representatives in the ensuing General Assembly, the Presbytery of did, and hereby do nominate

nominate and appoint Mr. Minister at
and Mr. Minister at
and all of them, constituent Members of this Pres-
bytery, and
Ruling Elders, their Commissioners to the next General As-
sembly of this National Church, indited to meet at
the Day of next to come, or
when and where it shall happen to sit, willing them to repair
thereto, and to attend all the Diets of the same, and there to
consult, vote, and determine in all Matters that come before
them, to the Glory of God and the Good of his Church, ac-
cording to the Word of God, the Confession of Faith, and a-
greeable to the Constitutions of this Church, as they will be an-
swerable; and that they report their Diligence therein at their
Return therefrom: And the said Presbytery does hereby testify
and declare, that the Ruling Elders above-named have signed
the Formula prescribed by the 11th Act of the Assembly 1694
* []: And further, that the said Elders are
mindful of the Duties of their Office, are circumspect in their
Walk, religiously observe the Lord's Day, regularly attend up-
on divine Ordinances, and duly regard the public and private
Worship of God. Extracted by Cls.

ATTESTATION.

A^T the Day of
Years. The which Day the Presbytery of
having had the above Extract of their Commis-
sion to their Representatives in the ensuing Assembly laid
before them, they caused it to be read; and having revised
and considered the same, they did approve thereof. Attested
by A. B. Moderator.

FORM of COMMISSIONS from UNIVERSITIES.

A^T the Day of
Years. The which Day, in the Afternoon, be-
twixt the Hours of 12 and 4, a Meeting of the University of
being convened, according to an Appoint-
ment

* N. B. In this Place left blank must be inserted the Relation the Elders stand in to
the Presbytery in respect of one or other of the Circumstances following:

That they do usually reside within the Bounds of this Presbytery.

Or, That they are Heretors on the Cess-roll within the Bounds of this Presbytery.

Or, That they have formerly resided and officiated as Elders within the Bounds of
this Presbytery. If the Elders are differently related to the Presbytery in these Respects,
each of them must be distinguished by the particular Circumstances agreeing to him,
thus: That A. B. does usually reside within the Bounds of this Presbytery, and C. D.
is an Heretor on the Cess-roll within these Bounds, &c.

ment of a former University-meeting on the Day of
last, fixing this Day for the Election of a Mem-
ber for the ensuing General Assembly, they did and hereby do
nominate and appoint (*Here take in his Name and his Designation,*
expressing his Office as a Member of the University) their Com-
missioner to the next General Assembly of this National Church,
indited to meet at the Day of

next to come, or when and where it shall happen
to sit, willing him to repair thereto, and to attend all the
Diets of the same, and there to consult, vote, and determine
in all Matters that come before them, to the Glory of God and
Good of his Church, according to the Word of God, the Con-
fession of Faith, and agreeable to the Constitutions of this
Church, as he will be answerable; and that he report his Di-
ligence therein at his Return therefrom: And it is hereby testi-
fied and declared, that the said
is a Minister of this Church lawfully ordained. Extracted by

Or thus, And it is hereby testified and declared, that the said
is an Elder of this Church lawfully ordain-
ed; that he hath signed the Formula prescribed by the 11th
Act of Assembly 1694: And farther, that he is mindful of the
Duties of his Office, is circumspect in his Walk, religiously ob-
serves the Lord's Day, regularly attends on divine Ordinances,
and duly regards the public and private Worship of God. Ex-
tracted by

ATTESTATION by the PRESBYTERY.

AT the Day of
Years. Which Day the Presbytery of
having had produced before them a Commission
given by the University of to (*Here take in*
his Name and his Designation as a Member of the University) to re-
present the said University in the ensuing General Assembly of
this National Church, do hereby testify and declare, that the
said is a Minister of this Church lawfully
ordained. This sign'd by A. B. Moderator.

Or thus, Do hereby testify and declare, that the said
is an Elder of this Church lawfully ordained; that
he hath sign'd the Formula prescribed by the 11th Act of As-
sembly 1694: And further, that he is mindful of the Duties
of his Office, is circumspect in his Walk, religiously observes
the Lord's Day, regularly attends upon divine Ordinances, and
duly regards the public and private Worship of God. This
sign'd by A. B. Moderator.

to represent the said Burgh in the ensuing General Assembly of this National Church, do hereby testify and declare, that the said, &c. (*in the same Terms as in the Form of Commissions.*)

ATTESTATION by a PRESBYTERY.

A^T the Day of
Years. The which Day the Presbytery of
having had produced before them a Commission
given by the Magistrates and Town-council of
to represent the said Burgh in the ensuing
General Assembly of this National Church, with an Attestation
by the Kirk-Session of the said Burgh, according to the Form
prescribed by the General Assembly, do likewise testify and de-
clare, &c. (*in the same Terms as in the Form of the Commission
and Attestation by the Kirk-Session.*)

A TABLE

TABLE of the printed Acts of the General Assembly, held in the Year 1759.

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Index or Abridgment

O F T H E

Actings and Proceedings of the General Assembly of the Church of *Scotland*, held in the Year 1759, and which are not printed at full Length.

A F T E R Sermon by the Reverend Mr. *Thomas Turnbull* Minister at *Borthwick*, Moderator of the last General Assembly, the Ministers and Ruling Elders, Members of this Assembly, did convene in the Assembly-house, and the Reverend Dr. *George Kay*, one of the Ministers of *Edinburgh*, being chosen Moderator, he, at the Assembly's Desire, took the Chair. *May 24th, Sess. 1.*

The King's Commission to *Charles Lord Cathcart*, to represent his Majesty's Royal Person in this Assembly, read and recorded. *Ibid.*

The King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly read and recorded. *Ibid.*

The Commissioner's Speech at opening this Assembly, and the Moderator's Speech in Return thereto. *Ibid.*

The Royal Warrant for 1000 *l.* granted this Year by his Majesty for Encouragement of itinerant Preachers and Catechists, for Reformation of the *Highlands* and *Islands*, read and recorded. *Ibid.*

A Committee named for answering the King's most gracious Letter. *Ibid.*

A Committee named for revising the Commissions to the Members of this Assembly, censuring Absents from the Diets thereof, naming Ministers to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner, receiving in Lists of Probationers in the several Presbyteries, in order to their being recorded, and of Students in Divinity at the several Universities. *Ibid.*

Committee for Overtures named. *Ibid.*

Committee for Bills, References, and Appeals. *Ibid.*

A Diet spent in Prayer. *May 25th, Sess. 2.*

Ministers named to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner. *Ibid.*

The Act 7th of the Assembly 1718, for the better Dispatch of the Business of the Assembly, read, and the Observation thereof enjoined. *Ibid.*

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The Draught of an Answer to the King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly brought in and approven, and his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's Request, undertakes to transmit the same to his Majesty. *May 26th, Sess. 3.*

A Committee named to revise the Register of the Actings and Proceedings of the Commission of the late General Assembly, audit the Procurator and Agent's Accompts, consider the State of public Money, and prepare Overtures about the same. *Ibid.*

A Committee named to revise the Register of the Committee named by last Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty for the Reformation of the *Highlands and Islands.* *Ibid.*

Committees named for revising the Synod Books of *Glenelg, Lothian and Tweeddale, Merse and Tiviotdale, Dumfries, Perth and Stirling.* *Ibid.*

The Synod Books of *Aberdeen, Moray, Ross, Sutherland and Caithness, Orkney, Galloway, Glasgow and Ayr, Argyle, Fife, Angus and Mearns,* and Presbytery Book of *Zetland,* absent, and resolved that the Reasons thereof be inquired into. *Ibid.*

The Committee for Overtures appointed to receive in from the several Members any Instructions given to them by their respective Synods or Presbyteries, class the Matters therein contained, and prepare Overtures thereupon to the Assembly. *Ibid.*

An Appeal by the Right Honourable *John Earl of Dunmore,* Patron of the Parish of *Logie,* and *George Ross, Esq;* his Trustee, from a Sentence of the Synod of *Perth and Stirling,* finding that the Time allowed by Law to Patrons to present to vacant Parishes was in this Case expired before the Presentation in favours of Mr. *James Wright,* to be Minister of the Parish of *Logie,* was offered to the Presbytery of *Dumblane,* and that the Power of settling that Parish had fallen into the Hands of the Presbytery *jure devoluto;* brought in and heard, and the giving Judgment therein delayed till To-morrow. *May 28th, Sess. 4.*

A Report from the Committee for Overtures brought in, and ordered to lie on the Table till To-morrow, to be then taken under Consideration. *May 29th, Sess. 5.*

A Representation by Mr. *David Thomson* Minister at *Gargunock,* bearing his having waited on the Reverend the Deputies of the Provincial Synods of *South and North Holland,* before leaving that Country. That they enjoined him, in a very particular Manner, to offer their most affectionate Compliments to the General Assembly of this Church, and to represent to them how agreeable it was to the *Belgick Churches,* their having so generously concurred with them by a general Collection, to promote and advance an Undertaking

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wherein the Interests of the Protestant Religion, as well as that of the *British* Nation, were so deeply concerned; that they were affected for the Success and Prosperity of this Interest in *America*, where they had been using their best Endeavours, for eight Years running, to have Ministers settled, and Schoolmasters erected in these Parts; that at that Time they had Accounts of a Presbytery's being regularly constituted, consisting of 14 Ministers, and six or seven Schools, read, and the Zeal and Conduct of the said Deputies, in planting of Ministers, and erecting of Schools, approved of.

Ibid.

The Sentence of the Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling*, finding that the Power of settling the Parish of *Logie* had fallen into the Hands of Presbytery *jure devoluto*, reversed, and the Cause remitted back to the Presbytery of *Dumblane*, as it stood previously to the said Sentence of the Synod, that they may judge therein, and proceed to the Settlement of the said Parish, according to the Rules of the Church. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commission to take in, cognosce, and finally determine in any Reference or Appeal that shall regularly be brought before them, relating to the Settlement of the Parish of *Logie*. *Ibid.*

Act appointing the Synod of *Ross* to meet on the 2d *Tuesday* of *May* yearly. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commission to cognosce and finally determine in an Appeal by *James* Earl of *Balcarras*, Patron of the Parish of *Kilconquhar*, and by the Heritors of that Parish, Concurrers with his Presentation in favours of Dr. *John Chalmers*, Minister at *Ely*, to be Minister of the Parish of *Kilconquhar*, from a Judgment of the Presbytery of *St. Andrews*, delaying the Consideration of the Affair till their Meeting on the 4th of *July* next. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commission to take an Appeal by Mr. *Aeneas Sage*, Minister at *Lochcarron*, from a Sentence of the Synod of *Glenelg*, finding, that a Sermon preached by Mr. *Aeneas Mac Aulay*, Minister at *Applecross*, did not contain any Heterodox Opinions, but testifying their Dissatisfaction with Mr. *Mac Aulay*, for some indecent and some obscure Expressions contained in that Sermon, and recommending to him not to preach above the Capacity of his Hearers, and agreeing to reprove Mr. *Sage* for his Conduct in the Affair, and to enjoin him not to be over-ready to fish out Heresies, without very good and justifiable Reasons. *Ibid.*

Act appointing the Synod of *Lothian* and *Tweeddale* to hold their Meeting in the Month of *May*, on the 1st *Tuesday* of that Month yearly. *May* 30th, *Sess.* 5.

The Report of the Committee of Overtures, respecting the three Overtures transmitted by last Assembly, read, and turned

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- ed into standing Acts ; and a Motion of an Addition to be made to the first of these Acts, concerning Glebes, Grass, and other Privileges belonging to the Benefices, together with a penal Clause, remitted to the Committee for Overtures, that they might bring in an Overture with the Addition proposed. *Ibid.*
- Act against Ministers making Agreements with their Heretors concerning the Extent of their Stipends. *Ibid.*
- Act anent the more speedily supplying of Vacancies. *Ibid.*
- Act against Simoniackal Practices. *Ibid.*
- The Report of the Committee for revising the Proceedings of the Committee named by last Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, with their Remarks thereon, read, together with a printed Letter sent by the said Committee to the several Presbyteries concerned, containing a State of the Fund, with the Reasons for dismissing several Catechists, the Conduct of the said Committee approved, and their Book attested. *Ibid.*
- A Committee named to consider an Overture from the Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling*, anent the Application of the Royal Bounty, and to bring in any Scheme for answering, in the most effectual Manner, the Ends of the Royal Bounty. *Ibid.*
- A Committee named to consider a Representation by the Presbytery of *Fordyce*, anent the obtaining a Lease of a House for the Missionary in the *Enzie*. *Ibid.*
- The Report of the Committee named to consider the Representation from the Presbytery of *Fordyce* anent the Lease of a House for the Missionary in the *Enzie* brought in and read ; and it is remitted to the said Presbytery, to make the best Bargain they can for accommodating the said Missionary ; and for that Purpose they are allowed to draw upon the Fund collected for the *Enzie*, for a Sum not exceeding two Years Interest of the present Capital ; and the Itinerant appointed to reside in the House during the Currency of the Lease. *May 31st, Sess. 6.*
- The Sum of 10*l.* *Sterling* agreed to be paid yearly to *Archibald Govan*, Clerk to the Cashier of the Royal Bounty, for his Trouble in the Distribution thereof, commencing from the Term of *Whitsunday* 1759.
- The Report of the Committee named to consider the Overture anent the Application of the Royal Bounty brought in, with their Opinion, that, so long as his Majesty shall be pleased to continue his Royal Bounty, it might answer the Purpose more effectually, if it was applied for making new Erections, as well as maintaining itinerant Preachers and Catechists.
- A Committee named to prepare a Memorial to this Purpose to be laid before the next General Assembly, and Application made, in the Assembly's Name, by the Moderator, to his Grace

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Grace the Commissioner, for his good Offices in order to obtain an Alteration in the Terms of his Majesty's Grant, so far as to extend the Application of it to the making of new Erections of Parishes, as well as employing itinerant Preachers and Catechists, according as shall appear to the Assembly most proper for answering the pious End of his Majesty's Grant; which his Grace was pleased to undertake, and for which the Moderator returned him the Assembly's Thanks. *Ibid.*

A Petition by the Presbytery of *Lorn*, in Behalf of the Minister of the united Parishes of *Kilninver* and *Kilmelford*, with a Petition by Mr. *Archibald Stevenson* Minister at *St. Maddoes*, both setting forth the Grievances these Ministers labour under by the Smallness of their Stipends, and the Expence they are and will be exposed to in Processes of Augmentation and Locality before the Lords Commissioners for Plantation of Kirks, &c. brought in and read; and the Assembly agreed to give to the said Ministers what shall be found necessary for defraying the Expence of their Processes, to the Extent of 25*l.* *Sterling* each, but not exceeding that Sum, and not to be paid till the other Debts presently due by the Church are cleared off. *Ibid.*

The Report of the Visitors of the Commission Book brought in and read; the Commission's Conduct approved of; the Assembly's Thanks given from the Chair to their Moderator for their Care and Diligence in the Affairs committed to them; and their Book ordered to be attested. *Ibid.*

The Report of the Trustees of the Fund for a Provision to Ministers Widows, &c. given in, and ordered to lie on the Table till another Diet. *Ibid.*

The Members from the several Synods appointed to meet among themselves, in order to bring in a List of the Nominators of the Commission, according to the 6th Act of Assembly 1705. *Ibid.*

An Overture of an Act respecting the Election and Qualifications of Members of Assembly, with the Draught of Commissions, and Attestations of Commissions, prepared by the Committee named by last Assembly for that Purpose, brought in and read, and the Consideration thereof delayed till Tomorrow. *Ibid.*

The Accompts of the Procurator and Agent for the Church, with the Report of the Committee on the public Accompts thereon, brought in, and ordered to lie on the Table till another Diet. *Ibid.*

Ministers named to lecture and preach before his Grace the Commissioner on *Sabbath* first, in Place of one formerly appointed, but who, by reason of Indisposition, could not fulfil the Appointment laid on him. *June 1st, Sess. 7.*

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A List of the Members of the several Synods brought in, and appointed as a Committee to name the Members of the Commission of this Assembly, and prepare Instructions to them.

Ibid.

The Report of the Committee for preparing a State of the public Money brought in and read, bearing, that the whole Debts presently due by the Church amounted to 310 *l. Sterling*, whereof 200 *l.* bears Interest from *Whitsunday* 1759.

Ibid.

Overture for an Addition to be made to the 6th Act of this Assembly against Ministers making Agreements with their Heretors. *Ibid.*

An Instruction from the Presbytery of *Elgin*, craving, that Mr. *Francis Hasbane* be continued itinerant Preacher and Catechist at *Pluscarden*, read, and remitted to the Committee for managing the Royal Bounty. *Ibid.*

Two Overtures, the one respecting the Right and Power of ordained Assistants and Successors advising, voting, and determining in Causes coming before Presbyteries and Synods, even where Right and Property takes Place; and the other, that the Act 13th *May* 1732, should be so far altered as to make it lawful for Presbyteries not only to take Trials and serve the Edict, but to proceed to the Ordination and Admission notwithstanding of any Appeal to the contrary, in such Cases only where the Opposition is small, read and referred to the Commission, that they may take them under Consideration, and, if they see Cause, prepare an Overture thereupon to the next General Assembly. *Ibid.*

A Memorial concerning an intended Alteration of the Course of the Post, whereby the Post would come into and go out of several trading Towns in *Scotland* upon the Lord's Day, which would prove a great Temptation to profane that Day, by making it a Day of Business, transmitted from the Committee for Overtures, and a Committee named to take the same into their Consideration, and do all in their Power to prevent any Hurt that might arise to the Interests of Religion should the proposed Alteration take Place. *Ibid.*

An Application by Mr. *Thomas Hepburn* Commissioner from the Presbytery of *Cairston*, and Mr. *Lauchlan M'Lean* Commissioner from the Presbytery of *Uist*, craving some Allowance out of the public Money for defraying the Expence of their Attendance on this Assembly, read, and the Sum of 5 *l. Sterling* agreed to be instantly paid to each of them for defraying the Expence of their Journey to this Assembly. *Ibid.*

An Instruction from the Presbytery of *Kirkwall* for continuing a Missionary in their Bounds, with one from the Presbytery of *Cairston*, craving, that Mr. *Patrick Mair* may be employed on that Mission, in Place of Mr. *Nisbet* deceased, who was formerly employed there, read, and remitted to the Committee for managing the Royal Bounty. *Ibid.*

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Overture of an Act and Rules concerning the Election and Qualifications of Members of Assembly. *Ibid.*

The Sum of five Pounds *Sterling* ordered to be paid to Mr. *William Mitchell*, Commissioner from the Presbytery of *Zetland*, for his Attendance on this Assembly *June 2d, Sess. 8.*

The Report of the Trustees for managing the Fund for a Provision to Ministers Widows, &c. containing a State of the Fund under their Management, and an Account of their Proceedings since last Assembly, re-produced, and ordered to be recorded in the separate Register kept for that Purpose. *Ibid.*

Act approving of Mr. *David Dalrymple* Advocate, Procurator for the Church, his Intromissions with his Majesty's Allowance for defraying the publick Charges of the Church, for *Lady-day, Mid-summer, Michaelmas, and Christmas 1757,* and *Lady-day, Mid summer, Michaelmas, and Christmas 1758;* and appointing that the Ballance of 45 *l.* 6 *s.* $\frac{3}{4}$ *d.* *Sterling* in his Hands, be charged in his next Accompt. *Ibid.*

Act approving of the Accompt of *James Edmonstone*, Agent for the Church, and Sub-Clerk to the General Assembly; and appointing, that he have Credit in his next Accompt, of a Ballance of 13 *l.* 4 *s.* 11 *d.* *Sterling* due to him. *Ibid.*

The Report of the Committee for naming the Members of the Commission, and drawing Instructions to them, brought in and approved. *Ibid.*

The Draught of a Commission, and Instructions to the Committee for managing the Royal Bounty this Year, brought in and approved. *Ibid.*

A Committee named, to take under Consideration, what shall be the requisite Qualifications of Students, particularly, in respect of the Time of their having studied Philosophy and Divinity, in order to their being received upon Trials by Presbyteries, prepare an Overture thereupon, to be laid before the Commission, to be further ripened by them for the next Assembly; or. in case there should not be an Opportunity of having such Overture considered by the Commission, that the Committee shall themselves report to the Assembly; and to correspond by Letters with such Professors of Divinity as cannot attend their Meetings, that they may assist with their Sentiments on this Subject. *Ibid.*

An Overture concerning the Method of settling vacant Parishes, read and delayed 'till *Monday* next. *Ibid.*

A Petition by Mr. *Christian-Lewis Finne*, Chaplain to the King of *Prussia*, and Minister of the reformed Church at *Crossen* in *Silesia*, formerly at *Breslau*, setting forth the Distress the Citizens of *Custrin*, and the Inhabitants of the *New Marche* of *Brandenburgh* are reduced to by the Hostilities of the invading *Russians*, who burnt their Churches, plundered their Habitations, and consumed their Substance. And praying
for